

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 6-8 are amended. Claims 6-8 are pending.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,977,851 to Stancil et al. ("Stancil"). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following. Claim 6 is amended to recite a vehicle body air vent. Stancil does not disclose or suggest a vehicle body air vent. Stancil merely discloses wireless signal distribution in a building HVAC system, which uses the duct work of a building to transmit electromagnetic radiation (See Col. 1, lines 5-10 and Col. 1, line 65 to Col. 2, line 1).

Further, claim 6 is amended to recite that the antenna body and the plastic material of the frame are integrally molded such that the antenna body is embedded in and completely surrounded by the plastic material of the frame. Stancil does not disclose or suggest this feature. In fact, Stancil fails to disclose or suggest how the antenna is attached to the grill, or even any enabling disclosure with respect to fixing an antenna to an air vent in any manner.

Further, the antenna mentioned in Stancil is a passive antenna. The receiver 24 that the Examiner refers to is in fact provided completely separate from the grill in the duct 22 (see Figure 3 and Col. 4, lines 11 and 12). There is no hint or suggestion at all in Stancil that the receiver 24 could be fixed onto or incorporated into the grill. Thus, claim 6 is not anticipated by Stancil and the rejection of claim 6 using Stancil should be withdrawn.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,692,349 to Brinkerhoff et al. ("Brinkerhoff"). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following. Brinkerhoff does not disclose or suggest a vehicle body air vent. Brinkerhoff discloses a computer controlled air vent specifically designed for an HVAC system in a residential or commercial building (See Col. 4, lines 7-23).

Furthermore, Brinkerhoff does not disclose or suggest that the antenna body and the plastic material of the frame are integrally molded such that the antenna body is embedded in and completely surrounded by the plastic material of the frame. Brinkerhoff merely discloses at column 7, lines 37-38, that a bubble 24 formed in a portion of the top plate 36 may house a wireless antenna or temperature sensor. There is no disclosure as to how to fix the antenna to the bubble or the air vent frame, or even whether the bubble and the antenna are fixed together at all, let alone any disclosure of the antenna and any part of the air vent 10 being integrally molded. Thus, claim 6 is not anticipated by Brinkerhoff and the rejection of claim 6 using Brinkerhoff should be withdrawn.

Claim 6 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0022616 to Stiehl. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following.

The M.P.E.P. sets forth the criteria for a rejection for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103 as follows:

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or

to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant's disclosure.

See, M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j) *citing In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Stiehl discloses an air vent 10, in particular for venting the interior of a vehicle. As disclosed at Paragraph [0017] of Stiehl, an antenna 62 is fitted to a frame 12 of the air vent. When fitting the antenna 62, the connecting cable 68 is guided through the mounting opening 60, and a protuberance is inserted into a mounting opening 60 to thus center the antenna 62 on the frame 12. The antenna 62 is fixed to the frame 12 furthermore by means of three fasteners points, as well as by protrusions 70 cooperating with latching tabs 46 to form a latching connection.

1. The Stiehl reference does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of claim 6.

Claim 6 as amended recites that the antenna body and the plastic material of the frame are integrally molded such that the antenna body is embedded in and completely surrounded by the plastic material of the frame. There are several advantages associated with this feature, namely that assembly costs are reduced; tolerance problems are avoided; the component is safely attached to the frame of the air vent; the number of parts is reduced; there is a quality improvement through reduction of the production steps or sources of error; fewer tools can be used; the sealing on the vehicle body is improved; and the component is well protected from

deterioration by environmental influence. The Stiehl reference does not teach or suggest that an antenna body and the plastic material of the frame are integrally molded such that the antenna body is embedded in and completely surrounded by the plastic material of the frame. Stiehl merely discloses an antenna 62 that is fitted to the frame 12 by the protuberance being inserted into the mounting opening 60, fixed to the frame by means of three fastener points, and by protrusions 70 cooperating with latching tabs 46 to form a latching connection. In fact, Fig. 1 of Stiehl shows that the antenna is fitted onto the frame and the side of the antenna facing away from the frame is exposed.

Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) fails to establish a prima facie case for obviousness, because the Stiehl reference does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of claim 6.

2. There is no suggestion or motivation in the Stiehl reference or in the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Stiehl reference to include the subject matter recited in claim 6.

There is no motivation or suggestion in the Stiehl reference to modify Stiehl to provide that an antenna body and the plastic material of the frame are integrally molded such that the antenna body is embedded in and completely surrounded by plastic material of the frame. The particular air vent of Stiehl is designed for the interior of a vehicle and thus is not required to be protected from the environment. Hence, there would be no need to completely surround the antenna with the plastic frame 12 in the air vent 10 of Stiehl.

Further, paragraph [0003] of Stiehl states that the object of the invention is to accommodate an antenna in a vehicle so that it has good transceiver performance

while being simple to fit. Stiehl also requires that there is a connector plug or mounting opening 60 to center the antenna 62 on the frame. Yet, having an antenna fitted to the frame 12 in the manner disclosed by Stiehl so as to achieve a simple fit is entirely different than providing an antenna embedded in a frame so as to completely surround the antenna with the plastic material of the frame. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Stiehl to provide that an antenna body and the plastic material of the frame are integrally molded such that the antenna body is embedded in and completely surrounded by plastic material of the frame.

For the reasons set forth above, the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) fails to establish a prima facie case for obviousness, because there is no suggestion or motivation in the Stiehl reference or in the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Stiehl reference to include the subject matter recited in claim 6. Therefore, in view of the above-mentioned reasons, claim 6 is allowable.

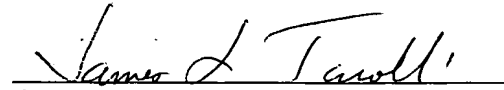
Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 6 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and the application allowed.

U.S. Serial No. 10/686,980

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this matter to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Tarolli", is written over a horizontal line.

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